This Issue of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Consists of 2 Pages

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1915, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

Only concord makes us strong and great; discord overthrows everything.—Gellert.

WHOLE NO. 1365 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1937 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 27, NO. 24

A. F. of L. Supports Federal Labor Standards Bill, Sponsored By Roosevelt, With Amendments to Guard Collective Bargaining

President Green, Speaking for the Executive Council, Approves as a Temporary Measure Minimum Wage Regulation by the Government For Those Earning $1200 or Less Per Year, but Opposes the General Principle of Government Wage Fixing For Men in Private Employment; Suggests a Minimum of Forty Cents an Hour, With the Provision that Government Regulation Shall Stop When Private Industry Applies Collective Bargaining to End Substandard Labor Conditions.

Indorses the Forty-Hour Week, With the Stipulation that the Labor Standards Board Shall Have Power to Scale It Down to the Thirty-Hour Week, Which Is Held Necessary to Provide Work For the Millions Still Jobless Because of the Installation of Labor-Displacing Machinery and Methods; Welcomes the Ban on Labor of Children Under 16 Years, and Hails Outlawing of Industrial Espionage and Spy Transportation as Necessary For Decent Standards in Labor Disputes.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Black-Connery Fair Labor Standards Bill to establish minimum wages and maximum hours of labor for certain low-income groups of working men and women, outlaw the labor of children under the age of sixteen years, ban industrial espionage, and set up a Federal Labor Standards Board, was given the qualified endorsement of the American Federation of Labor by William Green, president of the Federation, in his testimony on the measure at the hearing held jointly by the Senate Education and Labor Committee and the House Labor Committee.

Speaking for the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Green held that while government regulation of wages for adult workers may be temporarily necessary for certain unorganized groups who at present are powerless to protect themselves from the low labor standards imposed upon them by profiteering employers, the Fair Labor Standards Act should recognize the effective results already obtained by collective bargaining in these groups, encourage the continued functioning of such collective bargaining, and provide for "the withdrawal of government regulation as such collective bargaining expands to effectively cover the regulated field."

In recommending the inclusion of the 40-hour week in the Act, Mr. Green reiterated and emphasized the demand of the American Federation of Labor for the 30-hour week and urged that the Labor Standards Board be authorized to scale the length of the work week down to thirty hours. In support of this recommendation he cited the millions of workers still jobless and placed responsibility for considerable unemployment in the large corporation-controlled industries, 585 of which from June, 1935, to March, 1936, lengthened the work week to such an extent that work opportunities for 839,125 workers were destroyed. Mr. Green estimated that taking industry as a whole, departures from the National Industrial Recovery Act codes have been responsible for upwar[d] of two and one-half million unemployed since it was held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States. In addition, the productivity per hour of the workers during the last few years has increased forty per cent.

While favoring the provision in the Bill outlawing the employment of children under sixteen years of age and barring the labor of children between the ages of sixteen and eighteen from industries hazardous to their health and well-being, Mr. Green emphasized the continuing urgent necessity of ratifying the Child Labor Amendment to the Federal Constitution, which now lacks favorable action by only eight States to make it part of the fundamental law of the land.

In addition, the A. F. of L. chief approved the provisions in the Bill which undertake to outlaw industrial spying and the interstate transportation of strike breakers. These practices, he said, "undermine the machinery for the orderly and voluntary solution of our economic problems" and are "contrary to our American standards of fair play in our economic life."

Following is the text of Mr. Green's testimony before the joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor and the House Committee on Labor:

The American Federation of Labor, by action of its Executive Council, on May 28, 1937, endorsed, together with the additional sections to be offered herewith, the proposed Fair Labor Standards Act of 1937 as formulated in the Black-Connery bills introduced in the Congress of the United States on May 24th, 1937.

The additional sections which we shall offer herewith are essential to strengthen the administrative provisions of the proposed Act, to coordinate it with the other Congressional enactments and policies enunciated therein covering the same subject matter, and to more effectively carry out the objectives sought to be attained by the President's message and by such legislation pursuant thereto.

As an active and major participant on the firing line in the formulation of public policies dealing with the economic and social welfare of American life, the American Federation of Labor supports the proposed Fair Labor Standards Act of 1937, taken together with the additional sections offered, as constructive legislation of far-reaching significance in the public interest, necessitated by the impact of the forces behind our industrial development and urban economy.

To come at once to the heart of the proposed Act, and to strip it of all ambiguity, we shall consider it as dealing with five substantive subject matters: four of general application within the scope of business and occupation covered by the Act—that is, industrial espionage, strike-breaking, child labor, and maximum hours—and one subject of only limited application within that sphere—that is, minimum wages below $1200 annual wage income.

I and II
INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE AND STRIKE-BREAKING

The Act outlaws industrial espionage and strike-breaking, defined in the Act, as trade practices. As such, it is an extension beyond the Byrnes law, effective June 1, 1936, which, as you know, made it a felony to transport men across state lines with the intent to employ them to interfere with peaceful picketing. The Act is intended to make illegal those practices revealed by the Subcommittee on Education and Labor appointed under Senate Resolution 266 in its preliminary report No. 46 to the 74th Congress and its hearings subsequent thereto, as shocking to enlightened employers, employes, and to the community at large, as contrary to our American standards of fair play in our industrial life.

As these practices undermine the machinery for the orderly and voluntary solution of our economic problems, the American Federation of Labor condemns them, when used by employers, as it has in the past for similar reasons, as this Committee knows, condemned un-American and imported Communistic practices of certain elements of labor, of similar effect.

Moreover, as has been revealed, the apparently necessary and inherent dishonesty and deceit in falsifying records, and in misrepresenting financial facts of the enterprise to public authority, to cover up industrial espionage and strike-breaking activities which have been resorted to by industrial management, and by those operating under them, breed implications of grave and unjustifiable harm to the investors of the business, who are the real but absentee owners thereof, and in whose behalf also this legislation will serve as a protection as well.

III
CHILD LABOR

Under the Act employment of children under 16 is condemned in any occupation covered by it, and employment is condemned of all children of the ages of 16 and 17 in such occupations covered by it as the Act as are declared by the Chief of the Children's Bureau in the Department of Labor as particularly hazardous or detrimental to their health and well being.

The American Federation of Labor has steadfastly led in the fight for child labor legislation: In support of the Palmer-Owens Bill, 1914; U. S. Child Labor Act, 1916; U. S. Child Labor Act, 1919; the proposed national constitutional amendment, 1924; has supported the campaign for ratification of this amendment among the states; and has aggressively fought for the raising of child labor standards within the respective states.

Pending the ratification of the constitutional amendment, the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1937 deals with child labor in interstate commerce. Though it is not an extension of, or addition to, Congressional legislation could be under the proposed constitutional amendment, nevertheless it does reach a substantial portion of the field of non-agricultural and nonindustrial home work child labor.

The limited jurisdiction of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1937 removes from controversy the issue of state's rights alleged by the opponents of the constitutional amendment. We would even favor provisions to strengthen the Act to provide for its administration with a view to relating it as closely as possible to the administration of state child labor laws.

The Act will have the salutary effect of removing from the opposition to raising in states child labor standards the objection that such high standard states are supposedly at a disadvantage in competition with the lower standard states. By breaking down this alleged advantage through such lower standards, it should also tend to weaken the opposition to final ratification of the constitutional amendment.

But that there may be no doubt as to the present position of the American Federation of Labor, we wish to reaffirm the stand which we have taken as the leader in the fight for a constitutional amendment: we shall not cease in our efforts to push to a successful conclusion the fight for the final ratification by the States of the constitutional amendment submitted to them by Congress in 1924.

IV
MAXIMUM HOURS

For intelligent discussion of the questions raised by the provisions of the proposed Fair Labor Standards Act of 1937 covering regulation of maximum hours of employment, it is necessary to present the following brief summary of its provisions relating thereto.

(1) Initial Regulation.

The Board is to enter an order or regulation stating what employments are to be covered by the maximum work week standard of the number of hours which Congress is to specify as part of the Act as passed.

In stating the employments to be covered by the order or regulation, the Board must find that the application of such maximum work week standard to the business will not unreasonably curtail the earning power of the employes in such employment.

(2) Variation of Maximum Hours Standard.

The Board may, by regulation or order:

(a) Vary the Congressional maximum work week standard upward or downward (Sec. 4 (d));

(b) As to all employes or any class or classes of employes (Sec. 4 (4));

(c) To the extent it finds same necessary or appropriate

A. F. of L. Executive Council Asks Prompt Action by Affiliated Unions on the Assessment Voted by the Cincinnati Conference

President Green and Secretary-Treasurer Morrison Assert It Was Made Clear at the Conference by a Spokesman for the C. I. O. That "War Is Being Made Upon the American Federation of Labor and Its Affiliated National and International Unions as Well as Its Subordinate Bodies; the Challenge Which Is Thus Made Must Be Met, and in Our Judgment Will Be Met by the Courageous, Red-blooded Men Who Make Up the American Federation of Labor . . . Our Fight Is to Preserve the Great American Labor Movement Which Has Been Handed Down to Those of Us Who Compose It as a Common Heritage."

Executive Council Also Approves Cincinnati Conference Recommendation That "Unions Chartered by National Organizations Affiliated With the Committee for Industrial Organization Must Be Dissociated From Membership in State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies," and Urges American Federation of Labor National and International Unions to Require Their Locals to Affiliate With State Federations and City Central Bodies So That Loyal Unions Shall Take the Places Made Vacant by the Disloyal Organizations.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer Frank Morrison, by direction of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, sent a communication to the officers of the National and International Unions affiliated with the Federation asking immediate compliance with the recommendation of the recent conference of National and International Officers at Cincinnati, Ohio, that the per capita tax be increased one cent per month, the amount to be advanced voluntarily by the unions pending adoption of the assessment by the next A. F. of L. convention, to provide a fund which will enable the American Federation of Labor to enlarge the field of organization and thus more adequately protect the Federation from the subversive movements, led by the Committee for Industrial Organization and supported by Communists, whose object is the destruction of the A. F. of L. and the constructive principles and policies for the benefit of working men and women which it has built up during the fifty-six years of its existence.

The Executive Council also urged compliance with the recommendation of the Cincinnati conference that National and International Unions require their local organizations to affiliate with State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies. Such affiliation, the Council pointed out, is especially important in view of the recommendation of the Cincinnati conference, approved by the Council, that C. I. O. Unions must be excluded from State Federations and City Central Bodies.

Declaring that "the American Federation of Labor is in no way responsible for the emergency which has been created within the ranks of Labor," and that those who set up a dual, rival movement to the American Federation of Labor must bear the blame and accept the responsibility," the Executive Council militantly affirmed that "our fight is to preserve the Great American Labor Movement which has been handed down to those of us who compose it as a common heritage," and called upon "all National and International Unions to do their part."

Following is the text of the letter which President Green and Secretary-Treasurer Morrison sent to the affiliated unions:

To officers of National and International Unions:

Dear Sir and Brother:

No one in attendance at the conference of national and international officers held at the Netherland Plaza Hotel, in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 24th and 25th, could fail to appreciate and understand the loyalty and devotion shown to the American Federation of Labor by practically all those who were present. The meeting and all that took place could be well interpreted as a re-dedication of the officers and representatives of National and International unions to the principles, policies and procedure of the American Federation of Labor.

The conference adopted the recommendations submitted by the Executive Council. There were two of the four recommendations, however, which because of their importance call for immediate consideration and action. These were the first and third of the recommendations made by the Council, reading as follows:

"First, that the National and International Unions represented in the conference do hereby pledge themselves to consider a resolution at the forthcoming convention of the American Federation of Labor, levying an assessment of one cent per member per month effective June 1, and pending formal ratification of the resolution by the convention the affiliated unions do hereby agree to advance voluntarily the amount of the assessment contemplated by the resolution."

"Third, that because of the exigencies of the situation and for the purpose of maintaining the supremacy of the American Federation of Labor in the field of labor in states, cities and municipalities, all National and International Unions call upon and require duly chartered local organizations to become affiliated with State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies."

We are bringing these specific recommendations to your attention for prompt consideration and action. The Executive Council officially approved these recommendations. They concurred in the action of the conference of representatives of National and International officers. By instructions of the Executive Council we are therefore calling upon all National and International officers to proceed to carry into effect the specific recommendations referred to herein.

You will note that by action of the conference, the National and International Unions represented therein pledged themselves to consider a resolution at the convention of the American Federation of Labor which will be held in Denver, Colorado, beginning October 4th, providing for the payment of one cent per member per month to the American Federation of Labor beginning June 1st, and pending formal ratification of the resolution by the convention, affiliated unions agreed to advance voluntarily the amount of the assessment contemplated by the resolution.

The need for additional funds for the American Federation of Labor is imperative. That fact was made plain when the conference was held. The printed proceedings which will be available for distribution within the near future will make clear the urgent need for additional funds for the American Federation of Labor so that it can carry on aggressive organizing work and protect to the extent of its resources and ability the American Federation of Labor and all it stands for both from attacks which may be made by professing friends as well as open foes.

In taking its stand for the preservation of these principles and policies, the American Federation of Labor will be fighting for the protection, preservation and jurisdiction of every National and International Union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. No one need suffer under any illusion. As made clear at the conference by a spokesman for the C. I. O., war is being made upon the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated National and International Unions as well as its subordinate bodies. The challenge which is thus made must be met, and in our judgment will be met by the courageous, red-blooded men who make up the American Federation of Labor. It is the great organization of Labor, which was founded more than one-half century ago and which has lived and functioned during all the period intervening, which must be protected and preserved.

We therefore take the liberty of urging each National and International Union to respond whole-heartedly to the action of the conference and of the Executive Council, begin paying the assessment of one cent per member per month in addition to the usual per capita tax to the American Federation of Labor for the month of June and for each month thereafter. Please pay it as promptly as possible, even though it may entail some sacrifice for international unions to do so.

Regarding the other recommendation, may we appeal to all national and international officers to call upon their duly chartered local unions to become affiliated with State Federations of Labor and City Central Labor Unions. This is of outstanding importance. **The conference recommended and the Council officially approved said recommendation, that unions chartered by national organizations affiliated with the Committee for Industrial Organization must be dissociated from membership in State Federations of Labor and City Central Labor Unions.** That being true, the great and urgent need for complete affiliation of local unions eligible to membership in state federations and city central bodies becomes more apparent. Let our organized local unions take the places which have been made vacant by disloyal organizations. By so doing, state federations and city central bodies can effectively deal with onslaughts which may be made upon them by local unions chartered by international organizations which hold membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization.

We call upon the officers of National and International Unions not only to request, but to instruct, if that is possible, their duly chartered local unions to immediately become affiliated with State Federations of Labor and City Central Labor Unions.

The American Federation of Labor is in no way responsible for the emergency which has been created within the ranks of labor. Those who set up a dual, rival movement to the American Federation of Labor must bear the blame and accept the responsibility. **Our fight is to preserve the great American Labor Movement which has been handed down to those of us who compose it as a common heritage.** We call upon all National and International Unions to do their part. Please respond to the recommendations herein made in a whole-hearted and enthusiastic way.

By direction of the Executive Council,
American Federation of Labor,
WM. GREEN, President.
FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer.

(Seal)

"considering the physical and economic health, efficiency and well-being of the employes and the number of persons available for employment, without unreasonably curtailing the earning power of the employes" (Sec. 4 (d)).

(3) Reasonable Maximum Work Week.

The Board may, by order or regulation, establish maximum weekly working hours in any occupation—

(a) Provided the maximum work week is not less than ..... hours, to be fixed by Congress.

(b) Upon finding that the order or regulation is necessary:

1. To make the number of hours reasonably suited to the nature of the service or class of service rendered (Sec. 2 (a) (15), or

2. To prevent the undermining by a portion of the in-

(Continued on Page 2)